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Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 14789 070258Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 IO-13
USIA-06 PRS-01 /039 W
----------079747 070524Z /23
R 070216Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3933
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
DEA HQ WASHDC

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FOLLOWING TELEGRAM BEING REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO:
SENT: ACTION BANGKOK FROM AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI ON JULY 6, 1977.

QUOTE:

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, TH
SUBJECT: CONVICTION OF ARUN NANAWICHIT

1. IN A MAJOR NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION DEVELOPMENT, PROMINENT HEROIN TRAFFICKER ARUN NANAWICHIT WAS TODAY SENTENCED IN CHIANG MAI PROVINCIAL COURT TO 35 YEARS IMPRISONMENT ON CHARGES OF POSSESSING NARCOTICS FOR SALE. AT THE SAME TIME, ARUN'S BROTHER, SAMAN NANAWICHIT, WAS ALSO SENTENCED TO 35 YEATS AND A CONFEDERATE, SOMPHAN ANUWONGCHAROEN, RECEIVED A SENTENCE OF 17 YEATS AND 6 MONTHS. AT THE TIME OF HIS ARREST, ARUN WAS IN POSSESSION OF 164 KILOGRAMS OPIUM, 102.6 KGS MORPHINE AND 20 KGS PI TZU (MORPHINE BASE). HE HAS LONG BEEN WELL KNOWN AS THE HEAD OF A MAJOR NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATION BASED IN CHIANG MAI.

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2. ARUN WAS ARRESTED IN CHIANG MAI ON MARCH 23, 1976 BY PROVINCIAL POLICE ACTING ON INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY THE CHIANG MAI DISTRICT OFFICE OF DEA. ON APRIL 23 OF THAT YEAR HE WAS RELEASED ON BAIL SET AT TWO MILLION BAHT (US$100,000). THERE HAVE BEEN WIDESPREAD RUMORS THAT HE OFFERED VERY SUBSTANTIAL BRIBES TO POLICE AND PROSECUTORS TO ESCAPE CONVICTION. WITHIN THE LAST

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FEW DAYS, A THAI POLICE OFFICER TOLD AN OFFICIAL AMERICAN
IN CHIANG MAI THAT HE WAS AFRAID THE VERDICT WOULD BE
NOT GUILTY DUE TO THE MONEY SPENT ON ARUN'S BEHALF.

3. THIS IS THE FIRST MAJOR NARCOTICS CONVICTION HANDED
DOWN BY THE CHIANG MAI PROVINCIAL COURT IN RECENT MEMORY.
IN VIEW OF ARUN'S TREMENDOUS INFLUENCE IN NORTHERN
THAILAND, WE BELIEVE THE CONVICTION MUST BE SEEN AS A
DEMONSTRATION OF THE PRESENT THAI GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT
TO NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION. WE SUSPECT THAT ARUN'S MONEY
AND INFLUENCE WERE COUNTERACTED BY PRESSURES ON THE LOCAL
JUDGES FROM THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF THE THAI GOVERNMENT.
TANNER
UNQUOTE:
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG TRAFFIC, COURT DECISIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BANGKO14789
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770240-0854
Format: TEL
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770785/aaaacvmw.tel
Line Count: 77
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1944168
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONVICTION OF ARUN NANAWICHIT
TAGS: SNAR, PINS, TH, (ARUN NANAWICHIT)
To: STATE RANGOON
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5e5c3570-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009